

Public Law 101-459  
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate October 20 through 28, 1990, as "National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America".

Oct. 24, 1990  
[S.J. Res. 346]

Whereas alcohol and other drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions and is of major concern to all Americans;

Whereas alcohol and other drug abuse is a major public health threat and is one of the largest causes of preventable disease, disability, and death in the United States today;

Whereas alcohol and other drug abuse costs the United States nearly \$100,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas illegal drug use is not limited to persons of a particular age, gender, or socioeconomic status, as evidenced by the fact that—

(1) 23,000,000 Americans age 12 and over currently use illicit drugs;

(2) a nationwide Weekly Reader survey revealed that, of the 68,000 fourth graders polled, 34 percent reported peer pressure to try wine coolers, 41 percent to smoke, and 24 percent to use crack or cocaine; and

(3) Americans age 15 to 24 have a higher rate of deaths due to accidents, homicides, and suicides, many of which are related to drug and alcohol abuse, than any other age group;

Whereas the drug problem appears to be insurmountable, but the United States has begun to lay the foundation to combat it;

Whereas the United States must continue the important strides made to combat alcohol and other drug abuse;

Whereas the most recent national polls reveal that—

(1) the United States has made progress in combatting alcohol and other drug abuse;

(2) there has been a steady decline in the reported use of marijuana on a daily basis by high school seniors since 1979;

(3) marijuana use among high school seniors was at its lowest level in 11 years in 1987;

(4) there was a significant drop in the use of cocaine in 1987; and

(5) the number of high school seniors associating great risk with trying cocaine once or twice rose from 34 percent in 1986 to 48 percent in 1987;

Whereas illicit use of stimulants and sedatives continues to decline among high school seniors, college students, and young adults in general;

Whereas public opinion polls demonstrate that the American people consider drug abuse one of the most serious domestic problems facing the United States and have begun to take steps to fight it;

Whereas the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth has declared October 20 through 28, 1990, as "National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America", has organized the National Red Ribbon Campaign to coordinate the week, has established the theme "Line Up to Sign Up for a Drug-free Decade" for

the week, and has called for a comprehensive public awareness, prevention, and education program involving thousands of parent and community groups across the country;

Whereas other outstanding groups and agencies, including the Parents Communication Network, the National Crime Prevention Council, the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, the United States Conference of Mayors, the National Governors' Association, the Chiefs of Police Drug Task Force, Congressional Families for Drug Free Youth, the Parents' Resource Institute on Drug Education (PRIDE), the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Just Say No International, the Corporation Against Drug Abuse (CADA), the National Association of Broadcasters, the National School Boards Association, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the National Prevention Network, the Office for Substance Abuse Prevention of the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Parents and Teachers Association, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Council for Drug Education, Youth to Youth, the Drug Enforcement Administration of the Department of Justice, national youth organizations, and national service organizations, have demonstrated leadership, creativity, and determination in efforts to achieve a drug-free America; Whereas the National Red Ribbon Campaign is headed by President and Mrs. George Bush as national honorary chairpersons, and by a distinguished national advisory committee, including Bill Cosby, Tom Landry, Joan Lunden, Boone Pickens, and Peter Ueberroth; Whereas any use of an illegal drug is unacceptable, and the illegal use of a legal drug cannot be tolerated; and Whereas alcohol and other drug abuse destroys lives, spawns rampant crime, undermines our economy, and threatens our national security: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—*

(1) the period of October 20 through 28, 1990, is designated as "National Red Ribbon Week for a Drug-Free America";

(2) the President is authorized and directed to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States—

(A) to observe the week by holding meetings, conferences, and fundraising activities to support community and alcohol education, and with other appropriate activities, events, and educational campaigns; and

(B) both during the week and thereafter, to wear and display red ribbons to present and symbolize commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle, and to develop an attitude of intolerance concerning the use of drugs; and

(3) Congress recognizes and commends the hard work and dedication of concerned parents, youth, law enforcement, educators, business leaders, religious leaders, private sector

organizations, and Government leaders in combatting the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Approved October 24, 1990.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 346:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):

Sept. 17, considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 16, considered and passed House.

